

Nobody's perfect, says Noah actress Emma Watson



From a distance, Emma Watson appears to embody perfectly the **glamorous** Hollywood lifestyle. The reality, however, is very different, the actress has admitted.

After being cast as Hermione Granger in Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone as a **precocious** nine-year-old, Watson went on to find global fame by starring in all eight of the hit films in the multi-billion-pound series.

Watson, now aged 23, seems to have made the transition from child star to bona fide adult actress effortlessly, and is currently starring alongside household names such as Russell Crowe and Ray Winstone in biblical epic Noah. She has also made the move into modelling.

But Watson has hit out at the "dangerously unhealthy" image projected by the fashion and film industries, and admitted that the pressure to look **flawless** has taken its toll on her.

After the recent New York premiere of Noah, she **tweeted** a picture of the **vast** collection of cosmetics she used to prepare herself for the red carpet. Alongside another photo of her wearing a backless black dress, she wrote: "I did NOT wake up like this."

Watson has also admitted that, in recent years, the pressure to appear perfect has been a strain. "As a younger woman, that pressure got me down, but I've made my peace with it," she said.

"With airbrushing and digital manipulation, fashion can project an **unobtainable** image that's dangerously unhealthy. I'm excited about the ageing process. I'm more interested in women who aren't perfect. They're more **compelling**."

Watson, who is juggling her studies at Brown University in the US alongside her acting and modelling work, also admitted to struggling with press attention at university, particularly from British photographers.

"After Harry Potter, all that mattered was university," she told The Sunday Times. "It wasn't always easy to break down barriers, as having men from the British press following me with cameras didn't

1. What do you think Emma Watson means when she says "Nobody's perfect"?
2. Where is Hollywood located?
3. What's another word that we could use instead of 'glamorous' to describe the Hollywood lifestyle?
4. In the second paragraph, what information tells us that this article was written in another country? Which country?
5. What is the metaphor used in this paragraph?

help my mission to integrate.”

But although the American media was relatively restrained, she added, the attention of fellow students was a problem. “On the first day, I walked into the canteen and everyone went completely silent and turned around to look at me,” she said.

DISCUSSION

Vocabulary

Glamorous, precocious, flawless, tweeted, vast, unobtainable

Literacy questions:

1. Which of the bolded words in this article has a prefix?
2. List 3 other words that use this same prefix:
 - a. —
 - b. —
 - c. -

Questions for Discussion

1. In what ways do the fashion industry and the media put pressure on girls to look perfect?
2. What effects could this pressure have on young people?
3. Do you think the media is at fault for promoting flawless images of women? Explain your answer.
4. Are men faced with the same pressure about their appearance? Try to give examples to justify your opinion.